

**Fauquier County
Broadband Advisory Committee
Meeting of July 13, 2016**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Rick Gerhardt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Participants

Present were:

Mr. Gerhardt, Mr. Marshall, Ms. Heritage, Mr. Patusky, Mr. Hopewell, Mr. Taylor, Ms. Wilkerson, Mr. Faller, Mr. Herstek, Mr. Hinkler and Mr. Burke. Mr. Paul Conlin of Blaze Broadband, Mr. Andy Johnston of the PATH Foundation, and Mr. Andrew Cohill of Design Nine were present as guests.

3. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Mr. Gerhardt called for a motion to adopt the minutes and agenda. So moved: Ms. Wilkerson. Seconded: Mr. Marshall. All in favor.

4. Residential and Business Surveys

Mr. Cohill handed out updated copies of the residential and business surveys that reflected Mr. Conlin's suggested changes. Mr. Marshall mentioned that it is important that we consider the number of devices vs. the number of people and, also, how many people are working from home and using VPIN. Distribution was discussed. Ms. Heritage will determine the cost of mailing of the survey to every household in the County. Interviews will be arranged with the Fauquier Times and Fauquier Now for Mr. Gerhardt. The surveys will be pushed out on the County cable channel and website. The business survey will be distributed through the local Chambers and business organizations. Distribution through the School system will be explored. Copies will be made available at libraries and parks. Design Nine will be able to track and map from which magisterial districts the responses come. An official County letter with seal will be distributed with the surveys. Mr. Gerhardt requested that we conduct the survey until the end of August and then compile the responses.

5. Design Nine Presentation

Mr. Cohill introduced a presentation on “Broadband for Fauquier: Planning for Success, Ownership, Business Models and Finance” (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). He indicated that Virginia law provides that localities cannot offer retail provision of services or compete with private providers. Mr. Gerhardt suggested that space be proffered on towers to WISP providers. Mr. Faller questioned the cost of towers. Mr. Cohill estimated that the cost of a tower for Broadband only (not including acquisition of property) is approximately \$75k to \$125k. He indicated that Louisa County had recently spent \$900k for towers; Prince George’s County spent \$2 million on towers; and Charles City spent \$600k on towers and fiber. Mr. Cohill indicated that counties should consider appropriating as much funding as possible for infrastructure and that wireless towers are the “quick win”. Mr. Gerhardt indicated that there is currently a text amendment going before the Planning Commission to allow for less stringent requirements for certain towers. He indicated that the entire Telecommunications Ordinance is scheduled for review this year. Mr. Conlin pointed out that where infrastructure is provided should be considered as part of the overall planning process, as it often drives growth.

6. Tasking

- Ms. Heritage will schedule press interviews for Mr. Gerhardt regarding the surveys.
- Ms. Heritage will work with Mr. Cohill to distribute survey through press, libraries, parks, emails, distribution lists, cable channel, and website.
- Ms. Heritage will determine the costs of a mass mailing of the survey to all County households.

7. Next Meeting and Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Mr. Gerhardt adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 10th at the Warren Green Building.

Given under my hand this 14th day of July, 2016:

Catherine M. Heritage, Deputy County Administrator